

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2003

Mr. Speaker:

We are writing to you regarding the lack of action on H.R. 1307, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act and urge you to call this bill to the floor as soon as possible.

As you know, the House unanimously passed H.R. 1307 on March 20, 2003, and then the Senate followed suit by amending and unanimously passing H.R. 1307 on March 27, 2003. H.R. 1307, with Senate amendments, has been awaiting consideration for six months before the House, with no sign there will be any relief for our military. We think this is wrong and urge your immediate action.

H.R. 1307 provides valuable tax relief for our military personnel regarding additional deductions for National Guard and Reserve members, death gratuity benefits paid to families, aid from the Homeowners Assistance Program, and dependant care. We believe that any help given to our military families is important in providing some stability for families trying to cope with the loss or separation of loved ones fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Senate amended bill is paid for by taxing expatriates who continue to receive the favorable benefits as American citizens, even after having renounced their own U.S. citizenship. How can we look our servicemen and women in the eye, and ask them risk their lives in Iraq, while expatriates are not even asked to give up favorable tax status, long after they have turned their back on America? Our servicemen and women, military families, and veterans deserve better. Surely, tax breaks for those who have renounced their American citizenship to avoid U.S. taxes should not be a higher priority than providing tax benefits to military families and members of the Guard and Reserves.

If we pass H.R. 1307 with the Senate amendments, we can quickly send this to the President's desk and bring immediate relief to military personnel and their families. We urge you to end this unnecessary delay and take immediate action.

Sincerely,








